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Metro tops 607,413 according to Census Bureau

Mayor Bill Purcell announced the US Census Bureau is revising its 2005 estimate of Metro's population from 575,261 to 607,413.

The Census Bureau revised the estimate after Purcell filed a challenge to the July 1, 2005 figures. The new figures put reflect a 6.6 percent increase since the official Census count in 2000 population figure at 569,891 for all of Davidson County.

"We knew we were growing at a healthy rate, but the annual Census estimates were not reflecting that growth," Purcell said. "We have had record years in construction permits, a tremendous growth in residential living downtown, and the addition of new corporate headquarters from every corner of this country. So we challenged the Census estimate and they accepted the challenge and revised the estimate for July 1, 2005 to 607,413.

In his challenge to the Census Bureau's estimate Purcell noted that 16,000 new residential units were built between January 2000 and December 2004. Despite the new housing the Census Bureau estimated an increase in population of only 5,370 since 2000.

"The impact of these new numbers will be felt in future allocations of state and federal funding," Purcell said. "Most importantly they give all of us a better understanding of Metro's growth and vitality. It shows the world that Nashville is growing. We are now the largest MSA in the state with a population of more than 1.4 million in the region. This is the type of accurate information and analysis that drives our economic development as a city and a region."

Purcell said he met with Census officials in previous years to express concerns about the annual estimates. The 2000 Census count increased by 39,841 over the bureau's 1999 estimate for Davidson County.

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